Replace the paragraph beginning at page 9, line 15, with the following rewritten paragraph:

--Figure 1 is a chart that depicts the size and sequences of oligonucleotide primers (SEQ ID NOs:1-30, respectively) and competitive templates (CTs) used for the quantification of 15 genes. Deletions and insertions are indicated by black and white portions of bars, respectively.--

Replace the paragraph beginning at page 9, line 26, with the following rewritten paragraph:

--Figure 3 depicts the design and construction of competitor DNA constructs. Granzyme B competitor DNA construct (GB CT) and perforin competitor DNA CT were constructed by digestion of the 180 bp granzyme B wild type PCR product with *MseI*, and by digestion of the 176 bp perforin wild type PCR product with *NlaIII*, and ligation of the respective subfragments with a 44 bp or 36 bp DNA insert with appropriate cohesive ends at the 5' and 3' ends. Primers used to amplify GB CT and perforin CT are SEQ ID NO:42 and SEQ ID NO:44 (sense primers) and SEQ ID NO:43 and SEQ ID NO:45 (antisense primers), respectively. The 274 bp cyclophilin B competitor (Cyc B CT) was amplified using a modified sense primer that contains at its 5' end the external sense primer (SEQ ID NO:46) and at its 3' end, a 16 bp sub-fragment internal sense primer (SEQ ID NO:47) corresponding to sequences (302-317) within the wild-type PCR product (antisense primer is SEQ ID NO:48).--

Replace the paragraph beginning at page 10, line 26, with the following rewritten paragraph:

--Figure 7 illustrates the design and construction of competitor DNA constructs. The 400 bp A20 competitor, 366 bp Bcl-X_L competitor and 443 bp HO-1 competitor were amplified using modified sense primers that contain at their 5' ends the external sense primer (SEQ ID NOs:49, 52, and 55, respectively) and at their 3' ends sub-fragment internal sense primers (SEQ ID NOs:50, 53, and 56, respectively) corresponding to sequences within the wild type PCR product.--